

November 2, 2010, Ballot Pamphlet Letter from SOS

Dear Fellow Voter:

By registering to vote, you have taken the first step in playing an active role in deciding California's future. Now, to help you make your decisions, my office has created this Official Voter Information Guide that contains titles and summaries prepared by the Legislature and Attorney General Edmund G. Brown, Jr.; impartial analyses of the law and potential costs to taxpayers prepared by Legislative Analyst Mac Taylor; arguments in favor of and against ballot measures prepared by proponents and opponents; text of the proposed laws prepared/proofed by Legislative Counsel Diane F. Boyer-Vine; and other useful information. The printing of the guide was done under the supervision of Acting State Printer Kevin P. Hannah.

On November 2, we will have the opportunity to help choose our state's next governor and other constitutional officers, as well as legislative and congressional representatives. We also will decide on many measures placed on the ballot by lawmakers and members of the public, and whether to retain court justices who are nearing the end of their current terms. In some communities, local government candidates and ballot measures will be on the ballot, too.

This guide to statewide candidates and measures is just one of the useful tools for learning more about what will be on your specific ballot. Information about non-statewide candidates and measures is available in your county sample ballot booklet. (See pages __ and __ of this guide for more details.)

Voting is easy, and any registered voter may vote by mail, or in his or her local polling place. The last day to request a vote-by-mail ballot from your county elections office is October 26.

There are more ways to participate in the electoral process. You can:

- Be a poll worker on Election Day, helping to make voting easier for all eligible voters and protecting ballots until they are counted by elections officials;
- Spread the word about voter registration deadlines and voting rights through emails, phone calls, brochures, and posters; and
- Help educate other voters about the candidates and issues by organizing discussion groups or participating in debates with friends, families, and community leaders.

For more information about how and where to vote, as well as other ways you can participate in the electoral process, call (800) 345-VOTE or visit www.sos.ca.gov.

It is a wonderful privilege in a democracy to have a choice and the right to voice your opinion. As you know, some contests really do come down to narrow margin of just a few votes. Whether you cast your ballot at a polling place or by mail, I encourage you to take the time to carefully read about each candidate and ballot measure – and to know your voting rights.

Thank you for taking your civic responsibility seriously and making your voice heard!

**SUBJECT TO COURT
ORDERED CHANGES**